

Introduced by Senator Pan
(Principal coauthor: Senator Monning)
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Bonta)

January 15, 2016

An act to add Article 3 (commencing with Section 131230) to Chapter 2 of Part 1 of Division 112 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to public health.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 877, as introduced, Pan. Reporting and tracking of violent deaths.

Existing law establishes the State Department of Public Health, which is responsible for various programs relating to the health and safety of people in the state, including licensing health facilities, regulating food and drug safety, and monitoring and preventing communicable and chronic diseases.

This bill would require the department to establish and maintain the California Electronic Violent Death Reporting System. The bill would further require the department to collect data on violent deaths, as specified, and contract with counties to collect certain data, and would authorize the department to apply for grants to implement these provisions. The bill would also make related legislative findings and declarations.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

1 (a) Information and data regarding violent deaths can help
2 provide states and communities with a clearer understanding of
3 violent deaths and therefore lead to better prevention of violent
4 deaths.

5 (b) According to the federal Centers for Disease Control and
6 Prevention (CDC), in the United States, violence accounts for
7 approximately 51,000 deaths annually. Violent deaths result from
8 the intentional use of physical force or power against oneself,
9 another person, or a group or community, and include suicide,
10 homicide, and legal intervention deaths. Violence adversely affects
11 all Americans, not only through premature death, but also through
12 medical costs and lost productivity.

13 (c) The CDC further notes that the cost of these deaths totaled
14 \$47.2 billion: \$47 billion in work loss costs and \$215 million in
15 medical treatment.

16 (d) In 2002, the National Violent Death Reporting System
17 (NVDRS) was established as a surveillance system that pulls
18 together data on violent deaths. NVDRS collects information from
19 death certificates, coroner or medical examiner reports, police
20 reports, and crime laboratories.

21 (e) NVDRS data informs decisionmakers and program planners
22 about the magnitude, trends, and characteristics of violent deaths
23 in a particular state or community so appropriate prevention efforts
24 can be identified and implemented, and the data facilitates the
25 evaluation of state-based prevention programs and strategies.

26 (f) According to NVDRS, a national system will allow the CDC
27 to provide information for every state to inform their prevention
28 efforts. It will also ensure enhanced information on the national
29 scope of the problem of violent deaths is available to monitor and
30 track trends and to inform national efforts.

31 SEC. 2. Article 3 (commencing with Section 131230) is added
32 to Chapter 2 of Part 1 of Division 112 of the Health and Safety
33 Code, to read:

34
35 Article 3. Electronic Violent Death Reporting System
36

37 131230. (a) The department shall establish and maintain the
38 California Electronic Violent Death Reporting System.

39 (b) The department shall collect data on violent deaths as
40 reported from data sources, including, but not limited to, death

1 certificates, law enforcement reports, and coroner or medical
2 examiner reports.

3 (c) The department shall contract with counties to collect the
4 data specified in subdivision (b).

5 (d) The department may apply for grants provided under the
6 National Violent Death Reporting System of the federal Centers
7 for Disease Control and Prevention for purposes of implementing
8 this section.

9 (e) The department may accept private or foundation moneys
10 to implement this section.

11 (f) This section does not limit data sources that the department
12 may collect, which may include any public agency document that
13 may contain data on violent deaths.